

April 23, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers appeals the ruling from the Chair the Chair ruled or over ruled his point of personal privilege. If you agree with the Chair's ruling you vote aye, if you disagree with the Chair's ruling you vote nay. REcord your votes. Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 22 nays.

PRESIDENT: The Chair is not sustained, the Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of Legislature. You, we are all colleagues in this body, we never have the opportunity to intrude into the Governor's office like he can come into this body and say anything that he wants to say to us. Rulings are made by the Lt. Governor who is a member of the Executive branch, and I have made the remark before that certain protective decisions can be made by the Lt. Governor. Now when the Governor can come into this body and ask that people stand forth and respond to the challenge that he has hurled then a decision is made by the Lt. Governor that the Governor must be protected and my response can not be made at the time and in the context of the Governor's remarks, I think that is wrong and I think that it is a use of authority that the Lt. Governor has as presiding officer but to get to the issues that the Governor raised and that I am concerned about. He comes before the Legislature and he knows that all of the television cameras are here just like they are here on me now, but he will get more time because he represents an entire department and I represent 1/49th. Never-the-less he is condescending he is patronizing and he is contemptuous of the legislature. He says that nobody in this body can get a handle on the spending problems of the state so leave it to the Governor. He has implied that we are stupid. I'm not and that is why I am getting myself out of the generalization that he made. He said that a motion should be made, and this is the way that I understand the sense of it, to direct the fiscal staff of the Legislature to become the Governor's fiscal staff and tell us what he wants them to tell us. He said that it would be a unanimous motion. I wouldn't vote for anything like that. I think that it is an insult. If anybody tells this legislature fiscal staff to subordinate itself to the Governor of the Department of Revenue, we have lost an additional part of the objectivity that we should have. We have lost some of the power that the legislature is supposed to have. He said that should not consider any spending measures for this coming week. How many times have the people told the Governor don't veto this bill? How many times has the legislature passed a bill or the resolution and the Governor says I take this as an improper intrusion into the operations of the executive. There are things he says that are an intrusions into the power of the Legislature and with freedom of speech he can say anything that he wants too. But when there are consequences to bear for your words, I think that he ought to bear those consequences. When he came in.....I have a principle. There are people who are called Quakers who said that they wouldn't stand in the presence of the King. I won't stand in the presence of the Governor. Now you can take that to mean anything that you want, but there are certain phony methods and protocols that are observed in this Legislature which nobody wants to observe and in the same